

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 August 2003 (14.08.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/067136 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **F16L 5/02**,
C08J 9/00, H02G 3/22

(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL03/00067

(22) International Filing Date: 30 January 2003 (30.01.2003)

(25) Filing Language: Dutch

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
1019919 7 February 2002 (07.02.2002) NL

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BEELE ENGINEERING B.V.** [NL/NL]; Beunkdijk 11, NL-7122 NZ AALTEN (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BEELE, Johannes, Alfred** [NL/NL]; c/o Beunkdijk 11, NL-7122 NZ AALTEN (NL).

(74) Agent: **HOOVELD, Arjen, Jan, Winfried**; Arnold & Siedsma, Sweelinckplein 1, NL-2517 GK THE HAGUE (NL).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

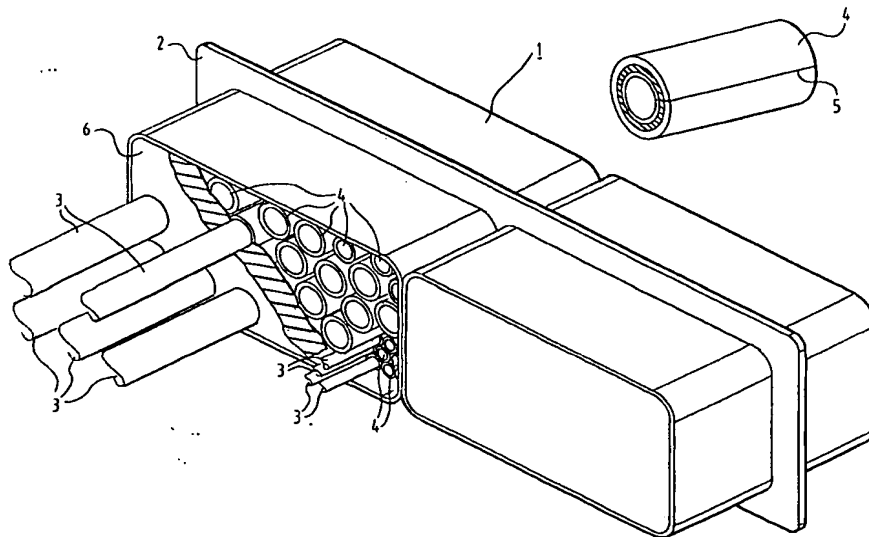
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A BUSHING ARRANGEMENT FOR SEALING PASSAGE OF A CABLE, A PIPE, A CONDUIT OR THE LIKE THROUGH AN OPENING IN A WALL



(57) Abstract: A bushing arrangement for sealing passage of a cable, a pipe, a conduit or the like through an opening in a wall, which bushing arrangement comprises at least one seal arranged in the opening in the operative condition, which seal is at least substantially made of an elastic, fire resistant material with a base of a cross-linkable polymer and an expandable agent in a quantity and composition such that the seal will expand in case of a fire, in such a manner that the opening on the wall will be sealed medium-tight, a special feature being the fact that the material of the seal has a foam structure comprising closed cells.

WO 03/067136 A1



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

**A BUSHING ARRANGEMENT FOR SEALING PASSAGE OF A CABLE, A PIPE,
A CONDUIT OR THE LIKE THROUGH AN OPENING IN A WALL**

5

The invention relates to a bushing arrangement for sealing passage of a cable, a pipe, a conduit or the like through an opening in a wall, which bushing arrangement comprises at least one seal arranged in the opening in the operative
10 condition, which seal is at least substantially made of an elastic, fire-resistant material with a base of a cross-linkable polymer and an expandable agent in a quantity and composition such that the seal will expand in case of a fire, in such a manner that the opening in the wall will be sealed
15 medium-tight. It is noted that the term "wall" in this connection is understood to mean any partition between two spaces, and consequently also includes a ship's deck, a bulkhead or the like.

20 Such a bushing arrangement is generally known. In the known bushing arrangement, the fire-resistant material of the seal contains an expandable agent which will expand upon exposure to a high temperature caused by fire, so that the seal will permanently seal the opening in the wall surrounding the
25 cable, pipe, conduit or the like being passed therethrough in order to prevent gases and/or liquids moving through said opening from one side of the wall to the other side of the wall. In case of a fire, the bushed cable, pipe, conduit and the like will usually deform, for example as a result of
30 plasticising, and the seal will expand in such a manner that an effective sealing of the opening in the wall will be maintained in that case.

One drawback of the known bushing arrangement is the fact that the fire-resistant material of the seal will absorb fire extinguishing water, for example, in case of a fire, which has an adverse effect on the sealing action of the seal, with all its harmful consequences as regards undesirable transport of gases and/or liquids from one side of the wall to the other side. Another drawback of the known bushing arrangement is the fact that in case of a fire on one side of the wall, the temperature on the other side of the wall will run up (too) high. This may cause objects present on said other side of the wall to take fire, as a consequence of which the fire will propagate from one side of the wall to the other side.

The object of the invention is to overcome the aforesaid drawbacks of the prior art, and in order to accomplish that objective a bushing arrangement of the kind referred to in the introduction is according to the invention characterized in that the material of the seal has a foam structure comprising closed cells. Surprisingly, it has become apparent in practice that said closed cells provide an excellent thermal insulation, owing to the presence of trapped air in the closed cells. Said air inclusions thus prevent the temperature on the side of the wall remote from the fire from running up so high as to constitute a fire hazard. The closed cells cannot absorb any fire extinguishing water, so that the effectiveness of the seal will remain unchanged.

In one preferred embodiment of a bushing arrangement according to the invention the cross-linkable polymer is composed of at least a rubbery linear polymer, preferably a terpolymer of ethylene, propylene and a third monomer containing two double carbon-carbon bonds (diene), with

sulphur being the vulcanisation agent. The cross-linkable polymer may be acidic ($PH < 7$) or basic ($PH > 7$) in that case. In another preferred variant, the cross-linkable polymer is composed of at least a rubbery linear polymer, preferably a
5 copolymer of ethylene and vinyl acetate, with carbon peroxide sides being the vulcanisation agent. Research has shown surprisingly shown that vulcanisation can take place optimally if the cross-linkable polymer is basic.

10 In another preferred embodiment of a bushing arrangement according to the invention the cross-linkable polymer is composed of at least a rubbery linear polymer containing 10-20 wt.% of ammonium polyphosphate. Ammonium polyphosphate is very suitable for use as a fire-resistant/flame-extinguishing
15 material, since it does not have an adverse effect on the properties of the rubber material. As is known, rubber is very sensitive to additives as regards its resistance against ozone, (high) temperatures, ageing, ultraviolet light etc.

20 In another preferred embodiment of a bushing arrangement according to the invention the expandable agent contains graphite in an amount of 5-25 wt.%. In particular, said expandable agent contains graphite in an amount of 10-15 wt.%, preferably about 12.5 wt.%. This composition provides a
25 proper sealing effect at usual temperatures of 15-50 degrees Celsius as well as a suitable expansion at higher temperatures, e.g. temperatures upwards of 50 degrees Celsius.

30 In another preferred embodiment of a bushing arrangement according to the invention the seal is made up of sheet material.

In another preferred embodiment of a bushing arrangement according to the invention the seal is made up of several hose members arranged in the opening in the wall. Said hose members may or may not be massive, or form sleeve means
5 through each of which a cable, a pipe, a conduit or the like extends for the purpose of being passed through the opening in the wall. In the latter case, the remaining space in the opening in the wall is filled up with massive hose members and/or with hose members forming sleeve means.

10

The invention also relates to a method for sealingly passing a cable, a pipe, a conduit and the like through an opening in the wall, in which a seal is arranged in the opening in the operative condition, which seal is at least substantially
15 made of an elastic, fire-resistant material with a base of a cross-linkable polymer and an expandable agent in a quantity and composition such that the seal will expand in case of a fire, in such a manner that the opening in the wall will be sealed medium-tight, characterized in that the material of
20 the seal is given a foam structure comprising closed cells.

Finally, the invention relates to a seal as such in the form of sheet material or hose members.

25 The invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to figures illustrated in a drawing, in which:

- Figure 1 relates to a bushing arrangement according to the invention in a first embodiment thereof, showing a
30 schematic and perspective view of a seal in the form of hose members;
- Figure 2 is a schematic, perspective view of another

variant of a hose member; and

- Figure 3 shows a second embodiment is of a bushing arrangement according to the invention, in which the seal is in the form of sheet material.

5

Figure 1 shows a frame (1) which can be mounted in an opening formed in a steel deck or bulkhead of a ship. The frame (1) comprises a flange (2) which lies in the plane of the steel deck, which flange (2) functions to support the frame.

10

After the frame (1) has been sealingly fitted in the opening, electric lines (3) are drawn through the frame (1).

Subsequently, a hose member or sleeve (4) made of a fire-resistant rubber is fitted round each electric line (3). Said fitting can be effected more easily if the hose members or sleeves (4) are provided with a continuous slit (5).

15

Following that, the remaining space in the frame (1) is filled, likewise with sleeves (4) of the same fire-resistant rubber. Finally, a heat-resistant and/or liquid-repellent material (6) is applied to both open sides of the frame. Said material (6) has been selected to have good adhesive properties and to vulcanise with the moisture in the air to form a rubbery material within 24 hours. The outer surface of the heat-resistant and/or liquid-repellent material (6) may

20

be smoothed with a wet knife. The heat-resistant and/or liquid-repellent material (6) ensures a liquid-tight and gastight bushing of the electric lines (3). It is precisely because the heat-resistant and/or liquid-repellent material (6) is present between and in the sleeves (4) functioning as fillers and between the sleeves (4) surrounding the electric lines (3) that a very stable whole having a great adhesive capacity is obtained. It is noted that the heat-resistant

25

30

and/or liquid-repellent material (6) is partially left out in Figure 1, and that the right-hand opening in the frame (1) is shown to be empty so as not to complicate Figure 1 unnecessarily.

5

In another preferred variant, hose members (4), which may or may not be massive, may be used instead of sleeves (4), which hose members will be arranged round the bushed cable (3) in the frame (1) in that case. The cable (3) is surrounded by
10 the hose members (4), which may or may not be massive, and supported by the lower hose members in the frame (1). The latter hose members (4) are in particular star-shaped, seen in cross-sectional view; such a hose member is shown in Figure 2. As already explained above, a cable (3) is not
15 passed through the hose member shown in Figure 2, but such hose members (4) are grouped around one or more cables (3) in the frame (1). Said hose members (4) fill up the remaining space in the frame (1), whilst the lower hose members (4) support the cable(s) (3) therein.

20

It is noted that the frame (1) may be left out in some cases, so that lines/cables (3) can be passed directly through an opening in a wall.

25 Figure 3 shows a wall (7) provided with an opening eight, through which lines (9) are passed. The present bushing arrangement is built up of a gutter-shaped lower part (10), side members (11) forming side walls and a lid-shaped upper part (12), whilst in this specific case a gasket (13) and a
30 mounting element (14) are furthermore provided. All this is shown in exploded view in Figure 4 so as to provide a better understanding of the invention; in use, the various parts

will be fitted together by means of bolts and nuts. The seal is in the form of plate-shaped members (15) in this case, which members are grouped round the lines (9) and which fill the remaining space in the bushing arrangement. Thus a
 5 liquid-tight and gastight bushing is provided, in which the lines (9) are bushed in a fire-resistant manner.

The sleeves (4), the hose members (4), which may or may not be massive, and the sheet material (15) are made with a
 10 rubbery material as a base, which material preferably has the following composition:

EPDM-COMPOUND

	Ethylene-propylene terpolymer (EPDM)	100
15	Aluminium trihydrate $Al_2(OH)_3$	135
	Polyammonium phosphate	10-15
	Phosphate ester plasticiser	5
	Interlaced graphite	35
	Zinc oxide (ZnO)	5
20	Stearic acid	1
	Polyethylene wax	3
	Zinc salt of an unsaturated fatty acid	3
	Deovule EG28	1.7
	Perkacit METS	0.3
25	Sulphur S80	2

EVA-COMPOUND

	Ethyl-vinyl acetate copolymer	100
30	Aluminium trihydrate $Al_2(OH)_3$	75
	Polyammonium phosphate	10-15
	Interlaced graphite	60

Zinc stearate	4
Carboxylic acid amide	5
Polycarbo diimide	2
High-viscosity silicone polymer (SFR 100)	10

CLAIMS

1. A bushing arrangement for sealing passage of a cable, a pipe, a conduit or the like through an opening in a wall, which bushing arrangement comprises at least one seal arranged in the opening in the operative condition, which seal is at least substantially made of an elastic, fire-resistant material with a base of a cross-linkable polymer and an expandable agent in a quantity and composition such that the seal will expand in case of a fire, in such a manner that the opening in the wall will be sealed medium-tight, **characterized in that** the material of the seal has a foam structure comprising closed cells.
2. A bushing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linkable polymer is composed of at least a rubbery linear polymer, preferably a terpolymer of ethylene, propylene and a third monomer containing two double carbon-carbon bonds (diene), with sulphur being the vulcanisation agent.
3. A bushing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linkable polymer is composed of at least a rubbery linear polymer, preferably a copolymer of ethylene and vinyl acetate, with carbon peroxide sides being the vulcanisation agent.
4. A bushing arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the cross-linkable polymer is basic.

5. A bushing arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims 1 - 4, wherein the cross-linkable polymer is composed of at least a rubbery linear polymer containing 10-20 wt.% of ammonium polyphosphate.

5

6. A bushing arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims 1 - 5, wherein the expandable agent contains graphite in an amount of 5-25 wt.%.

- 10 7. A bushing arrangement according to claim 6, wherein said expandable agent contains graphite in an amount of 10-15 wt.%, preferably about 12.5 wt.%.

- 15 8. A bushing arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims 1 - 7, wherein the seal is made up of sheet material.

- 20 9. A bushing arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims 1 - 7, wherein the seal is made up of several hose members arranged in the opening in the wall.

10. A bushing arrangement according to claim 9, wherein said hose members are massive.

25

11. A bushing arrangement according to claim 9, wherein said hose members form sleeve means through each of which a cable, a pipe, a conduit or the like extends for the purpose of being passed through the opening in the wall.

30

12. A method for sealingly passing a cable, a pipe, a conduit and the like through an opening in the wall, in

5 which a seal is arranged in the opening in the operative condition, which seal is at least substantially made of an elastic, fire-resistant material with a base of a cross-linkable polymer and an expandable agent in a quantity and composition such that the seal will expand in case of a fire, in such a manner that the opening in the wall will be sealed medium-tight, characterized in that the material of the seal is given a foam structure comprising closed cells.

1/3

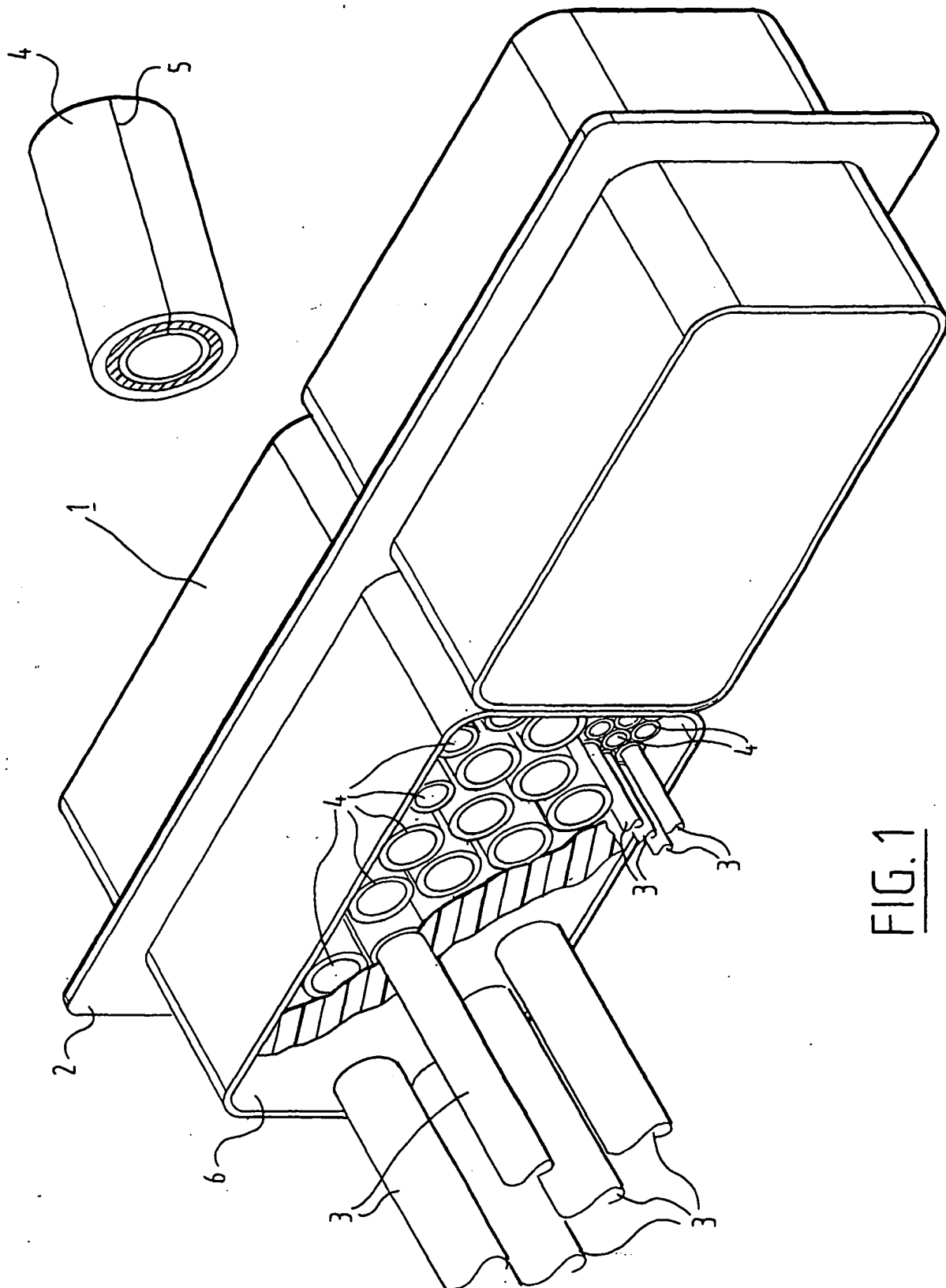


FIG. 1

2/3

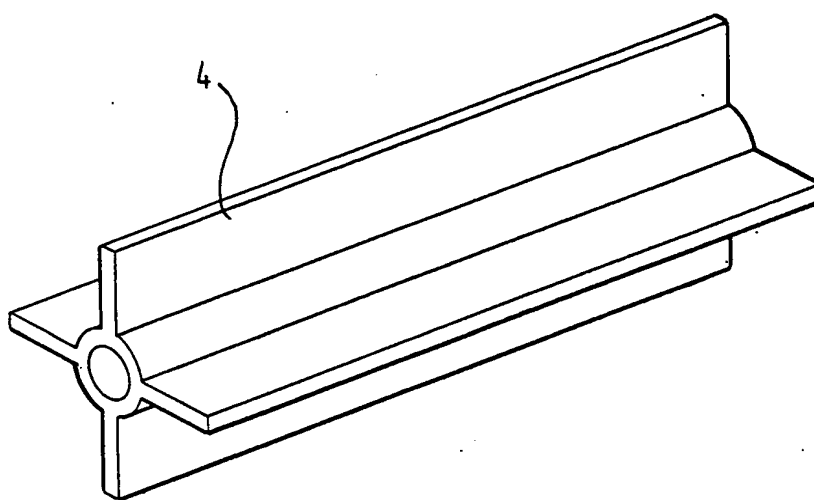


FIG. 2

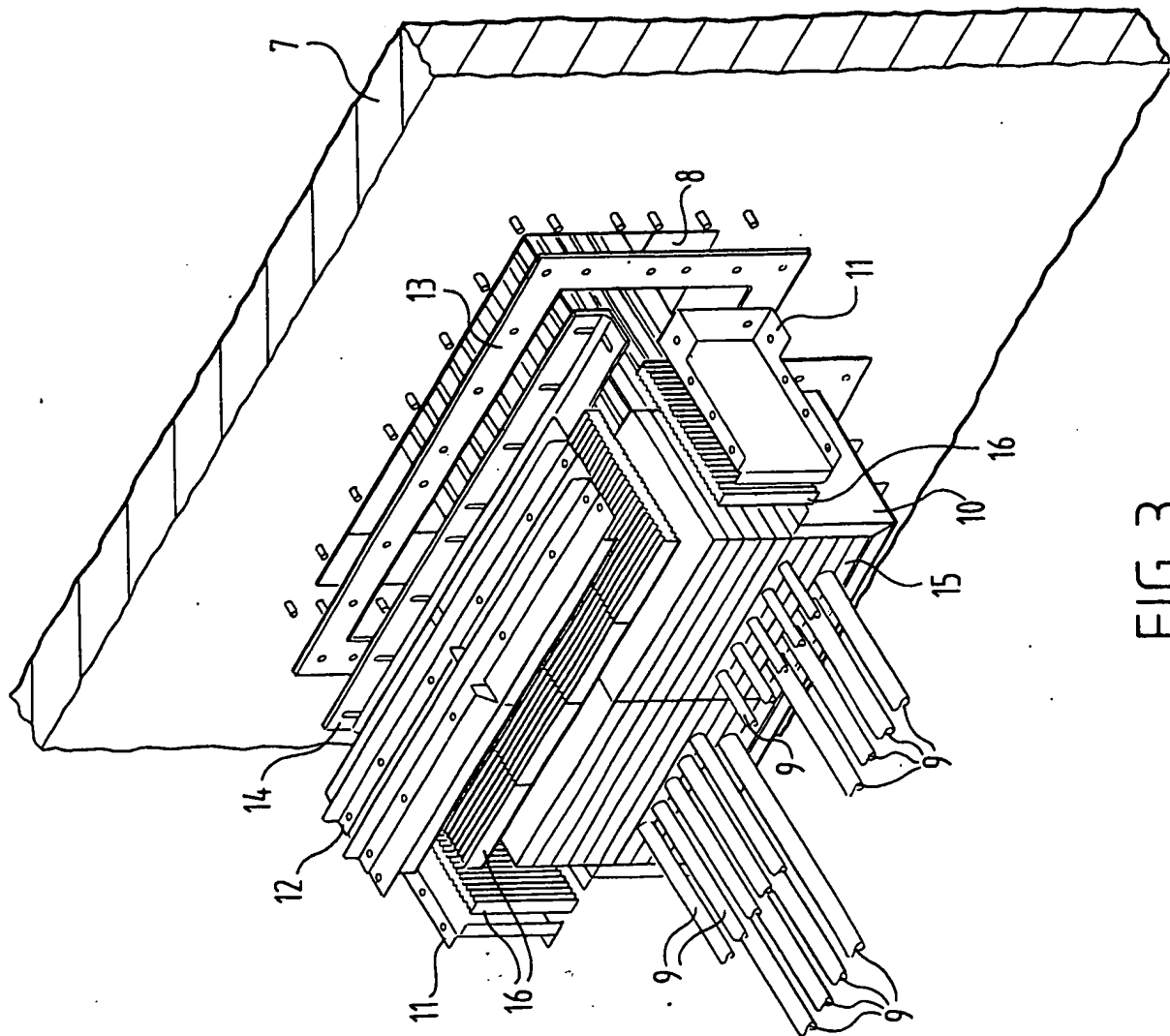


FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL 03/00067

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16L5/02 C08J9/00 H02G3/22		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F16L C08J H02G		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CH 648 103 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 28 February 1985 (1985-02-28) claims 1-7 ---	1-12
A	EP 1 106 665 A (HILTI AG) 13 June 2001 (2001-06-13) claims 1-9 ---	1-12
X	WO 00 56810 A (COGNIS DEUTSCHLAND GMBH ; GRAF ROBERT (DE); KLUTH HERMANN (DE); ERN) 28 September 2000 (2000-09-28) page 16, paragraph 1 page 18, paragraph 5 claims 1-11 -----	1-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art *&* document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 5 June 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 17/06/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018		Authorized officer Siemens, T

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL 03/00067

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CH 648103	A	28-02-1985	CH 648103 A5	28-02-1985
EP 1106665	A	13-06-2001	DE 19955839 C1	01-03-2001
			AU 5350700 A	24-05-2001
			CA 2323346 A1	19-05-2001
			EP 1106665 A2	13-06-2001
			HU 0004572 A2	28-01-2002
			JP 2001226661 A	21-08-2001
			PL 343951 A1	21-05-2001
WO 0056810	A	28-09-2000	DE 19912988 C1	17-08-2000
			AU 4105300 A	09-10-2000
			CA 2367730 A1	28-09-2000
			WO 0056810 A1	28-09-2000
			EP 1171518 A1	16-01-2002
			NO 20014602 A	20-11-2001